

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 2-4, 13 and 14, without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An immersion nozzle for a metallurgic vessel ~~arranged upstream of a casting device, the immersion nozzle~~ comprising:

an inlet end; and

an outlet end having a base area, and a slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) having in the base area, the slit-shaped pour-out opening having a length that is several times greater than its width is provided in a base area of the immersion nozzle;

wherein the immersion nozzle has a cross section that widens, in ~~the~~ a direction of a ~~mouth area~~ the outlet end, from a round inlet cross section having a semiaxis at the inlet end to a mouth cross section at the outlet end; the mouth cross section having a shape of one of an ellipse, a rhombus, and a combination of a circle and an ellipse, the mouth cross section further having one a first semiaxis that is smaller than a the semiaxis of the round inlet cross section, and another greater a second semiaxis extending perpendicular thereto that is to the first semiaxis, the second semiaxis being greater than the semiaxis of the round inlet cross section[;], and

wherein from the mouth cross section to the base area the immersion nozzle has a shape corresponding to that of a body of revolution of an ellipse or of an oval ~~mouth~~ cross section around the ~~greater~~ second semiaxis, and the slit-shaped outlet opening extends ~~in a direction of~~ along the greater second semiaxis.

2.-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the base area ~~of the mouth cross section~~ extends in an arc-shaped manner in a direction of the ~~smaller~~ first semiaxis.

6. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the base area ~~of the mouth cross section~~ extends in an arc-shaped manner in a direction of the ~~greater~~ second semiaxis.

7. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~transition~~ widening of the cross section from the ~~circular~~ round input cross section to the ~~widened~~ mouth cross section is formed as a function of a first degree.

8. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the ~~transition~~ widening of the cross section from the ~~circular~~ round input cross section to the ~~widened~~ mouth cross section is formed as a function of an nth degree.

9. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the slit-shaped pour-out opening ~~(2)~~ extends over ~~the~~ a length of the ~~entire~~ base area.

10. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 9, wherein the immersion nozzle further has a side wall, and the slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) extends in into the side wall.

11. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein ~~the shape of the slit-shaped pour-out opening (2) corresponds to~~ has a shape of a rectangle.

12. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The immersion nozzle ~~according~~ of claim 1, wherein the slit-shaped pour-out opening has a center, and a width which ~~the width of the pour-out opening~~ increases outward from the center.

13.-14. (canceled)